

Please find below, Utah State Parks news for March 22:

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

March 22, 2011

Contact:

Hollie Brown, (801) 537-3477

Deena Loyola, (801) 538-7347/ cell (801) 554-5199

stateparks.utah.gov

- Utah State Parks Statewide Grooming Ends April 2
- Utah State Parks Weekend Events
- Upcoming Utah State Parks Events

UTAH STATE PARKS STATEWIDE GROOMING ENDS APRIL 2

Salt Lake -- With the onset of spring conditions across much of the state, Utah State Parks and Recreation announces an end to its 2011 snowmobile trail grooming season effective April 2.

Utah State Parks operates 11 snowmobile trail groomers on nine snowmobile trail complexes in the state. These complexes stretch from Logan Canyon to Cedar Mountain.

“We’ve had a tremendous snowmobile season with some of the best snow conditions in years,” said Chris Haller, off-highway vehicle program manager with Utah State Parks. “Since we began grooming in November, our groomers have maintained more than 25,000 miles of trail for public use.” He added that due to spring conditions now limiting groomer access on many complexes and with current budgetary constraints, it’s time to wrap up the season.

Haller says great riding opportunities are available in some high country areas, but he encourages snowmobilers to exercise caution.

“Snowmobilers should avoid areas where avalanche activity has been noted,” said Haller. “We encourage each backcountry user to obtain an avalanche advisory before heading out, and to always wear an avalanche beacon and know how to use it. Take a shovel and probe too.”

For additional information, visit stateparks.utah.gov/ohv or call 1-800-OHV-RIDE.

Utah State Parks and Recreation administers the state off-highway vehicle program, providing education, access, maintenance, and enforcement.

###

UTAH STATE PARKS WEEKEND EVENTS

April 1 - 3 Dead Horse Point State Park - Moab
Geology Talk: Join us at 10 a.m. at the Dead Horse Point overlook for a program about the fascinating geology surrounding the park. 435-259-2614

April 1 – May 31 Antelope Island State Park - Syracuse
Photography Exhibit: Enjoy beautiful photographs of Great Salt Lake taken by Charles Uibel. 801-725-9263

April 2 Dead Horse Point State Park - Moab
Star Party: Join us for a program about the stars visible from Dead Horse Point. Experience some of the darkest skies in North America and view stars through a telescope. Meet at the visitor center amphitheater at 8 p.m. 435-259-2614

#

UPCOMING UTAH STATE PARKS EVENTS

April 7 Edge of the Cedars State Park Museum - Blanding
Backroom Perishables: Dr. Laurie Webster, archaeologist, author, textile and perishable expert and consultant, presents a program focusing on a selection of some of the fragile artifacts from the Edge of the Cedars collection including sandals, basketry, and other woven items. Program begins at 6:30 p.m. and is free to the public. 435-678-2238

April 9 Dead Horse Point State Park - Moab
Bats: Join us at 8:30 p.m. in the visitor center amphitheater for a program about bats. Program includes an audio/visual presentation, games and activities and nighttime bat viewing. 435-259-2614

April 9 Wasatch Mountain State Park - Midway
Stories of Light - The Great Southern Hexagon: Join the park naturalist at 8:30 p.m. at the campground to explore the most exciting areas of the night sky and discover the stories of the stars, constellations and planets. 435-654-1791

April 9 Antelope Island State Park - Levan
Junior Ranger Program: Join us at 2 p.m. to learn about how sheep were sheared and wool was processed at the Fielding Garr Ranch. Though this program is geared for youth six to 12, everyone is welcome. 801-649-5742

April 10 Dead Horse Point State Park - Moab

Bird Walk: Join us at 7 a.m. at the visitor center amphitheater for a morning bird walk. Learn common desert birds, their calls, and their field markings. Bring good shoes, hat, sunscreen and plenty of water. 435-259-2614

April 14 Edge of the Cedars State Park Museum - Blanding
The Cliff Dwellings Speak: Join authors and photographers Beth and Bill Sagstetter at 6:30 p.m. for a presentation on their recently published book *The Cliff Dwellings Speak*. The book discusses archaeological sites in the Four Corners region. 435-678-2238

April 16 Frontier Homestead State Park Museum – Cedar City
Scout Discovery Day: Cub scouts and their leaders participate in a variety of activities and projects such as pioneer games, rope making and printing on the hand press. Sessions run from 8 to 10 a.m., 10:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m., and 1:30 to 3:30 p.m. Cost is \$2 per scout with free admission for leaders. Space is limited and reservations are required. 435-586-9290

April 16 Dead Horse Point State Park - Moab
Full Moon Hike: Enjoy a short hike at 7:30 p.m. along the canyon rim overlooking the Colorado River and learn and listen for nocturnal animals. Activity is free with \$10 park admission. Space is limited and registration is required beginning two days prior to the event. 435-259-2614

April 16 Antelope Island State Park - Syracuse
Hike: Join the curator at 10 a.m. at the Fielding Garr Ranch for a guided moderate nine-mile hike on the South Island Trail. 801-649-5742

-utah state parks-